

This legislation is necessary because the IRS stated that "under existing GSA Federal Supply Schedule, FSS, contracting procedures, it cannot set a specific number of awards aside for contractors employing significant numbers of persons with disabilities," only for the one disabled employer who may never hire another disabled person.

This is an oversight in our law which needs to be corrected. It makes no sense that current law provides an employment opportunity for ONE disabled person, while this initiative would create opportunities for hundreds—if not thousands—of people who are disabled and without a college education.

Mr. Speaker, as I mentioned previously, there is particular concern over the group of young, disabled veterans who have few employment options. Most able-bodied soldiers without formal education, upon leaving service, take positions as bus drivers, cafeteria workers, janitorial services, or security personnel. If the Disability Preference Program is not enacted soon, a viable opportunity will be lost.

This initiative is supported by the Disabled American Veterans, the American Legion, the American Legion Auxiliary, the American Association of People With Disabilities, the One Percent Coalition, and the National Rehabilitation Association. In addition, the language has been passed by the other body on numerous occasions.

I ask my colleagues in the House to join with me in supporting the Disability Preference Program for Tax Collection Contracts. I ask them to join me in providing meaningful employment opportunities for persons with disabilities and for our returning soldiers who have been disabled in the line of duty.

#### IN HONOR OF CALDWELL PUBLIC LIBRARY

**HON. RODNEY P. FRELINGHUYSEN**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, October 12, 2007*

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the Caldwell Public Library, serving the Borough of Caldwell, Essex County, NJ, a vibrant community that I am proud to represent! On October 12th, the good citizens of the borough will celebrate their library's 90th anniversary with a rededication and the dedication of the Gene and Kathryn Collard Local History Resource Room. The Caldwell Public Library, an Andrew Carnegie Library dedicated in 1917, is situated on Bloomfield Avenue, diagonally across from President Grover Cleveland's Birthplace Memorial, a national historic site.

On October 1, 1906, at a regular meeting of the Borough Council, a communication was received from the Caldwell Borough Improvement Association, requesting the Borough to assume the responsibility of operating and supporting a public library.

The following year, 1907, Professor Hedden, Superintendent of Schools, requested the Caldwell Borough Council submit to the voters a referendum to establish a free public library under the State Library Act. The councilmen endorsed the necessary requirements, and at the November elections, the Act was passed by the voters. The State Library Com-

mission accepted and approved the proposed charter.

On June 8, 1908 a letter from the Carnegie Library Foundation offered a sum of \$7,500 to construct a library. To meet the grant's specifications, the town was required to provide an appropriate lot, plus \$750 or 10 percent of the grant annually to sustain the library.

For the next 9 years, the library board was confronted with problems which hindered the construction of a new edifice. Acquiring a suitable location was the principal issue. West Caldwell resident Mr. George W. Canfield generously donated \$2,000 toward the purchase of a site for the library. With this contribution, and donations from other interested persons, a total of \$3,000 was raised to purchase a site.

On October 12, 1917, the Caldwell Library was formally dedicated by Mayor Peck, who was also President of the Library Board of Trustees.

Gene Collard recorded much of the history of this area over the course of his life (1913–2004), and this Collard Collection, to be housed in the Gene and Kathryn Collard Local History Resource Room, will be an invaluable resource to not just the Caldwells, but beyond.

Madam Speaker, I urge you and my colleagues to join me in congratulating the Caldwell Library on the celebration of its 90th anniversary!

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. BILL SHUSTER**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, October 12, 2007*

Mr. SHUSTER. Madam Speaker, on rollcall No. 958, Final Passage of H.R. 2895, the National Affordable Housing Trust Fund Act of 2007, I was not present. Had I been present, I would have voted "no."

#### CONGRATULATIONS TO THE MARIN CONSERVATION CORPS ON ITS 25TH ANNIVERSARY

**HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, October 12, 2007*

Ms. WOOLSEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to salute the Marin Conservation Corps, MCC, on its 25th anniversary of helping young people to a brighter future by providing jobs and learning opportunities, at the same time protecting and conserving our natural resources.

MCC began more than 25 years ago when founder Richard Hammond was out jogging along one of the many gorgeous trails of the Marin Headlands. The father of teenage sons at the time, he had been seeking something productive to keep them occupied during summer vacation and came up with the idea to combine trail maintenance with young people's need for work. But it wasn't until devastating floods hit Marin in 1982 that the corps took shape.

The first local conservation corps in the country, MCC literally blazed the trail for others to follow. Workers have put in more than

3 million hours to maintain and conserve Marin County's 150,000 acres of public land. In association with AmeriCorps, MCC has partnered with the National Park Service to create a one-on-one mentoring program. MCC also provides young people with summer jobs through a combination of outdoor education, community service and recreational activities through its Project ReGeneration.

Under the leadership of Marilee Eckert since 1992, the nonprofit has grown to provide year-round employment to 116 people, operating under a budget of more than \$5 million and helping more than 3,000 young men and women gain job skills along with an education. Marilee also holds leadership roles in many local and national organizations. Her efforts have earned her recognition and awards from the county and the Sierra Club, as well as the gratitude of the many corps members who have benefited from her hard work.

Many of those who have benefited come from underserved populations. One such corpsman is Matthew Rainey, a 21-year-old convicted felon. "I didn't have an opportunity to work anywhere else," he says. "Honestly, I was living in my car, didn't have anything going for myself, but every single day, I would come to work."

Because of MCC, Rainey has earned his GED, saved enough to rent an apartment, and is considering following the trade he learned through his work at MCC.

"He has so totally blossomed," notes Deborah Schoenbaum, MCC's deputy director. "He has won just about every award you can get in the corps. It's been a life-changing experience for him."

Working at MCC has been a life-changing experience for many others, as well. An average of 300 young people go through the various MCC programs each year. In fact, some of MCC's sponsors and greatest supporters were previously in the corps program.

Corpsmembers not only arrive at work at 7 a.m. for a full day of work each day, but must put in 10 hours of education each week, as well. Marvin was one such young man willing to work this hard for a better future. Marvin came to the corps speaking absolutely no English, Schoenbaum remembers. "He now speaks English and has gotten a job with a top landscaping firm because he went through a landscaping program we have with College of Marin."

Such success stories, Madam Speaker, is why the Marin Conservation Corps deserves to be congratulated for its past 25 years of service. May it have an equally successful future.

**GREG SMITH: EDUCATOR, HUMANITARIAN, SCHOLAR AND CHAMPION FOR ENVIRONMENTAL RIGHTS**

**HON. JANE HARMAN**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, October 12, 2007*

Ms. HARMAN. Madam Speaker, on Saturday, October 20, 2007, California State University Dominguez Hills, CSUDH, will celebrate the dedication of the Greg Smith Memorial Garden on its campus. Inspired by the late